

February 21, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554-0004

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Pai:

Your short time as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has already brought about significant and welcome change, particularly your commitment to transparency, which is in striking contrast to your predecessor.

As you contemplate the long-range strategy for wireless access in our vast country, I ask that you keep in mind the thousands of rural communities that still do not have access to increasingly essential broadband Internet. This is particularly important in my home state of Kentucky, where a significant portion of my constituents live outside of the urban centers. Many Kentuckians have benefitted from the wireless industry's ongoing effort to increase broadband deployment to remote regions of the Commonwealth. Indeed, fast and reliable internet service has brought new economic opportunities to rural communities that would otherwise not be available.

I understand that you are committed to ensuring that no home is without access to wireless services, rural or otherwise. This is a noble goal and one I whole-heartedly support. To that end, I hope you will continue to give serious consideration to the needs of rural Americans and look for ways to responsibly preserve their access to fast and reliable Internet.

Thank you in advance for your attentiveness to this matter.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/qs

cc: Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter which makes clear that we share the same goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to mobile broadband service regardless of where they live. The very first sentence of the Communications Act of 1934 directs the Commission to "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service." I and the hard-working staff at the FCC take this promise seriously.

Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and that's why the Commission adopted the second phase of the Mobility Fund at the agency's February meeting. The Mobility Fund will preserve and advance mobile broadband service in rural America so that rural families and farmers, miners and ranchers, small businesses and growing towns, have the opportunity to access the high-speed mobile services taken for granted in urban areas. The Mobility Fund is a long-term investment directing up to four-and-a-half billion dollars to rural America over the next decade. It is also designed to distribute federal funds efficiently, using a competitive reverse auction to redirect universal service funding toward areas that would otherwise be unserved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I appreciate your kind words regarding my commitment to transparency. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai", is written above the printed name.

Ajit V. Pai